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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 13, Iss. 8)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

JUSTICE

Official Organ of The International
Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Vol. XIII. No. 8.

Jersey City, N. J., June, 1931

Price 10 Cents

Along the I. L. G. W. U. Front

Atlantic City.

May 14-20, 1931.

The General Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is in session again.

In New York City three months ago—now in Atlantic City, away from the seething, swirling Metropolis, where quiet, calm deliberation at times seems impossible. Here, in this modest, unpretentious hotel it seems easy to concentrate, to weigh matters dispassionately, and to exchange opinions without undue partisan heat.

President Schlesinger appears to have improved in health and spirits materially. During the three months of the leave of absence granted by the G. E. B. at the last meeting in February, which he spent in practical seclusion at Young's Gap, N. Y., he seems to have achieved a miracle. He has, namely, fully regained his voice, and finds himself now again able to talk freely without the haunting fear that had pursued him for over a year, the fear that his vocal chords were permanently damaged. Small wonder he is in

(Facts, Figures, Impressions from
the G. E. B. Meeting)

the happiest mood of his life, feeling as if resurrected for ever greater usefulness to the organization which he has been serving faithfully for over thirty years.

• • •

It is Thursday morning—the meeting begins.

The first to report is Vice President Ninfo, acting president during President Schlesinger's absence. Bro. Ninfo's account of his activity is brief and pointed. Local 48, the Italian Cloakmakers' organization, is functioning as unimpaired as before—a loyal and integral part of the big cloak workers' body in the New York market. During the months he was acting in lieu of President Schlesinger he visited daily the General Office and kept in constant touch with Secretary Dublinsky, consulting with him and working with him jointly on all mat-

ters requiring immediate action. He recites a series of activities which took place in the past three months—the Toronto dress strike, his visit to Boston, and winds up with the hope that, with the return of President Schlesinger to permanent good health, he may never need to serve in the capacity of acting president again.

Vice President Morris Bialis of Chicago, rises to report next.

There is tense interest in the room as the Board Member from Chicago begins his talk. Chicago had changed its work system from week-work to piece against the majority opinion of the G. E. B. last season, and Chicago is still the subject of an investigation ordered by the G. E. B. Bialis states that the Chicago cloakmakers are getting used to piece work, and are happy. There was more work in Chicago shops this season, he asserts, than in former seasons. The local shops are now manufacturing a cheaper line of garment—a \$16.50 coat—and the cloakmakers are making a liv-

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From left to right: bottom row, sitting—Bialis, Kramer, Feinberg, Dr. Hoffman, Secretary Dublinsky, President Schlesinger, Ninfo, Nagler, Hochman and Heller. Standing—sixth from left to right—Wander, Kirzner, Kreindler, Breslaw, Reisberg, Danish.

Along the I. L. G. W. U. Front

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ing. To kill the incentive for "sweating," a rule has been adopted in all shops to pool all surplus earnings made by the former week workers over and above their week scales into a common pot and to divide it among the entire group. A new cloak shop opened in Chicago, and the old shops have increased their working staffs. Bro. Bialis concludes by saying that he would touch on the dress situation in Chicago when this subject is presented to the Board by the committee which the Chicago Joint Board had sent to the meeting.

Bialis is followed by Vice President Philip Kramer, Boston Joint Board manager. The cloak situation in Boston, at this moment, when the shops are all but empty, is naturally quiet. On the whole, Boston is developing into more of a dress than a cloak center. The International locals in Boston now are on firm ground, the former chaos and demoralization caused by the Communist groups have largely subsided owing to the incessant trade union agitation carried on by our active workers.

Boston still, however, has a great deal to accomplish before it may consider its task done; there is still a number of dress shops to be unionized, and a number of men and women in shops under our jurisdiction to be enrolled into the Union's fold.

President Schlesinger calls upon Vice President Harry Wander to report on the work of the Out-of-Town Department of the General Office.

Bro. Wander gives an account of the work of his Department, the day-by-day efforts to control and to keep up an organization within the suburban shops—in Long Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and Westchester County. It is a hard grind, requiring a far greater budget than what the present financial strength of the International would permit. Yet, with the modest means on hand, Bro. Wander believes his organizers are doing good work.

Lately, the G. E. B. requested Bro. Wander to make an investigation of the knit goods and sportswear shops in the New York metropolitan district, a trade which has grown to large proportions and is operated on a non-union basis. Wander tells of several meetings he has had with shop representatives of these two trades. In his judgment, the sportswear shops are part of the existing cloak and dress boards, and should be controlled through the union body in these industries. The knit goods trade,

with a large number of shops in the New York territory employing thousands of workers, is a distinctly separate trade and is a fertile field where a strong union may be organized.

Vice President Relsberg reads a report on the situation of the cloakmakers and dressmakers in Philadelphia. The cloakmakers are carrying on their work as usual, controlling the local trade conditions to the best of their ability. It is, however, the dress market which in Philadelphia offers the Union its greatest problem. For more than two years now, the Philadelphia dressmakers have been praying to the International for aid to help them organize the local dress industry. This prayer has so far been left unanswered, yet the Philadelphia dressmakers' union has lost no faith that its appeal for help eventually would be heeded, as soon as the International can muster enough resources to come to its aid. Later, in the session, Vice President Relsberg says, a committee from Local 50 will appear before the G. E. B. to place this request directly before it.

Vice President Feinberg proceeds with a report on conditions in Montreal.

They had a good cloak season, making suits all the time. The Union has a good standing membership of 1,500; they are already making preparations for the renewal of the agreement which expires toward the end of the year. The local cloak market is 100 per cent organized; all the 65 firms in the trade belong to an association. They have an impartial arbitrator—Rabbi Dr. Stern.

The dress trade in Montreal, employing all French Canadian girls, is practically an unorganizable field, especially at this moment. What the future may bring in this direction is hard to foretell. Yes, they organized the few raincoat shops in the city under a collective agreement, and things have mended quite a lot in the waterproof shops. They also contributed \$1,100 to the Toronto dress strike, not enough but the best they could raise at the time.

Feinberg reports further about the intra-city conferences of Toronto and Montreal held recently. The agreements in both markets expire at the same time, and certainly they have mutual problems and interests. The creation of a joint reserve fund for both markets was discussed at these meetings, and this suggestion was favorably received.

Vice President Kirzner briefly touches on the Toronto dress strike. (A full report of this strike is found elsewhere in this issue). He urges the Interna-

tional not to neglect the support of those strikers who were left without jobs until they are placed at work. The Toronto cloak trade had had a bad season, and that was due to the fact that Toronto is not a suit market. The small firms suffered mostly. During the past few months the cloak association was materially weakened, as several firms withdrew from it. The shops involved thereupon held a number of meetings and served notice on their employers that they could not expect to dodge their union obligations by withdrawing from the association. This action has made some of the firms change their mind.

The Toronto cloakmakers, however, are a good union element, and they have amply shown this by their splendid support of the dressmakers during the past strike, both on the picket line and through financial aid.

Vice President Nagler, manager of the New York Joint Board, submits a review of the New York situation.

He gives an account of the past spring season in the cloak trade. It started poorly, late in February, but stretched out into April. There were pre-season conferences with the associations and the impartial chairman with a view of putting a ban on overtime to make possible the placing of a number of jobless cloakmakers at vacant machines. It was a wise move and it brought some good results. During the season a strict control was carried through to guard against undue overtime and Saturday work with remarkable success. As many as 1,000 people at a time were out in the district checking violations and enforcing the Union's policy.

At this moment, the trade is quiet, save for some summer work and sample and duplicate work. The Union is enforcing throughout the trade, to the best of its ability, the rule of no collective wage reductions—no bargain-counter prices.

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JUSTICE

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except that here and there individual manufacturers are permitted some reductions in the form of premiums for a guaranteed steady run of summer work.

March was a banner month in financial receipts in the New York Joint Board having brought in \$23,000 in dues. But the financial situation at present is far from easy, and the obligations accumulated from former months and years are still weighing down heavily the Joint Board income.

Right now, during the slack season, violations in the shops naturally increase correspondingly. A number of "inside" firms have turned into jobbers, and this tendency is becoming stronger from month to month. Not only cheap houses are giving up inside production but some well-known styling firms are turning in that direction. The Union is stopping sample making on jobbers' premises right and left, but, of course, a good deal of bootlegging still goes on and the Union is faced with the urgent problem of checking it through vigilant control.

Piece-work bootlegging is another evil which is confronting the Union, and the campaign against it which never lags is becoming even more strenuous during the slack period. Nagler touches on the resignation of impartial Chairman Ingersoll and the general regret which it caused throughout the trade, stressing his genuine contribution to the stability and progress of the cloak industry.

Committees appear.

Miss Rebecca Eisenstadt, member of Local 100, Chicago dressmakers, has "hiked" all the way over from Chicago to come to the meeting of the G. E. B. She talks touchingly of the plight of the Chicago dressmakers in most of the shops, of the long hours, miserable wages, of favoritism and persecution side by side, of Saturday afternoon work, of piece-work for sample makers. Wherever there is a semblance of protest in a shop a quiet lockout follows. The Joint Board has been helping them to the best of its ability but it cannot do much. Their eyes are turned toward the International; they need an organizing campaign, they hope to get it.

Saul Metz, Baltimore manager, and a committee of three others extend to the G. E. B. an invitation to come to an anniversary dinner of their organization on Sunday, May 17, to celebrate the revival of the Baltimore cloak organization. They are doing pretty well in that market, but their urgent need is the organization of a few additional key shops which were not unionized during the drive of last year. They want the G. E. B. to consider this request.

A committee from the Philadelphia

dressmakers' organization, Local 50, appeals to the G. E. B. to inaugurate a drive in their trade and to give them a helping hand in organizing the large non-union sector in the Philadelphia dress industry. The picture drawn by this committee of work conditions in the Philadelphia dress shops is appalling, indeed. There is not a vestige of square-dealing toward the workers. Intimidation, long hours, poor pay, and disregard of elementary workers' rights are rampant. The dressmakers of Philadelphia are waiting hopefully, patiently for the aid of the International, not only the members of Local 50 but the workers in the non-union shops, who, as the committee states, it would respond with fervor to the unionization call of the Union.

From the Philadelphia cloakmakers' organization a committee headed by George Rubin and Samuel Carp presents a request that they be given the control over the Camden shops, at present under direct agreement with the Out-of-Town Department of the General Office. They also ask that all the dress pressers of Philadelphia join Local 71, the cloak pressers' body, to give the union pressers an incentive to help in the forthcoming dress organizing drive and in order to create standard and uniform conditions for this craft in all Philadelphia shops.

Bro. H. D. Langer and Sister Sadie Reisch, the first dress organizer and strike leader of Toronto, and the second, Women's Trade Union League organizer "loaned" by that organization for three months to the Toronto strike, appear and are warmly received. They convey to the G. E. B. the thanks and deeply-felt appreciation of the Toronto dress workers for the generous assistance the International had given them during the ten weeks of their struggle for a unionized dress industry. They point with special pride to the tireless efforts of General Secretary Dublinsky who visited Toronto three times during the strike. His leadership and initiative, they reiterate, was one of the chief factors that made victory possible.

More committees.

Harry Greenberg, temporary supervisor of Local 38, speaks for the ladies' tailors organization. Since the unfortunate couturier strike, the local has been struggling to keep in working shape despite unbelievably hard odds. The membership is holding out well notwithstanding the bitter experience of that struggle, but it is obvious that it

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will require continued attention and help from the General Office for some time, until it is able to weather the storm and get into fighting shape again. He asks the G. E. B. that a permanent supervisor be kept in that local until the critical condition in the trade is passed.

Samuel Shore and Isidore Grackin present the case for the underwear workers of New York, Local 62. They give an interesting account of this organization, which, during the past three months, under the leadership of Supervisor Shore, has more than doubled its membership and has unionized some very large shops. The entire trade is now stirred up and waiting for big developments during the coming season. They request the G. E. B. to sanction an underwear workers' campaign on a large scale to unionize this industry which employs about ten thousand workers in big shops. Bro. Shore emphasizes the valuable assistance which Local 10 is lending to this drive.

Vice President Jacob Halperin reports for Local 41, the tuckers and hemstitchers union of New York. The last two seasons in the dress industry have wrought havoc in the tucking trade, as the change of styles had practically done away with this kind of accessory work on dresses. The tucking shops were deserted, and the people in the trade suffered. Many of them were forced to give up their occupation and seek other ways of making a living. Naturally the local has lost a lot of members and is in poor shape. Right now, however, there are signs of a revival in this trade. Dress styles for the coming season, it appears, will require a lot of tucking and a change for the better is already noticeable in the shops.

Halperin, as manager of Unity House, and Nagler, as chairman of the Unity House Committee, both report of the extensive preparatory work being done for the approaching season. Great improvements have been made in every department, the food purchasing and the dining room service placed under a new director, Mr. Ben Schindler, the waterfront and lockers completely renovated, buildings and walks redecorated and made more beautiful. A big season is expected, and the Committee is urging the leadership of the Union to boost Unity House far and wide among the mass of our membership.

Vice President Joseph Breslaw, who

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since July, 1930, held the office of local manager and International representative in Los Angeles, reports on conditions on the Pacific Coast.

The cloakmakers of Los Angeles find it difficult, for many specific local reasons, to keep up a strong organization. Right now their hardships are even greater owing to the fact that they had had an unsuccessful strike last fall the effects of which are still felt in the shops. The larger garment industry in Los Angeles, however, is the dress industry, which employs more than 7,000 workers, the majority of whom are Mexican girls working in big shops. The condition of these workers is pitiable. Indeed, as their wages range from \$6.75 to \$10 a week for 44 hours of work. There is a desire for organization among these workers, reports to the contrary notwithstanding, and there is reason to believe that they are an organizable element. Of course, a campaign in Los Angeles would not be a warlike as the city as a whole is anti-union, but success in this field is not impossible.

In San Francisco, 250 out of the 400 local cloakmakers are in the union, and they are a fine, loyal element. About half of the shops are organized, though conditions in the trade were not good lately. There is a small dress trade there, too, but is not important. There is, however, a significant cloak trade in Portland, Ore., a local industry which has grown out of the New York strike of 1926, and the several big cloak shops in that strong union city are not only organizable but are fairly clamoring for an organization.

An earnest fight between two New York locals, that hardy perennial—the jurisdictional scrap between Local 17, the reefmakers, and Local 1, the cloak operators—is coming up before the G. E. B.

Both sides came down heavily prepared. Each local at least is represented by a dozen men. Manager Louis Levy leading the Local 1 side, while Manager Jacob Heller is championing the cause of Local 17. Charges and countercharges are read from neatly typewritten sheets and hurled ex-promptu in heated volleys.

President Schlesinger is directing the discussion with the hand of a veteran. An entire afternoon is given over to the discussion, five speakers appearing for each side, Levy, Moser, B. Kaplan and Fried for Local 1, and Heller, Belson, Schneider, Orsheim and Mayeffsky for Local 17. Dual control of shops is one of the mutual accusations, the invasion

of shops belonging to Local 1 by the officers of Local 17 and vice-versa, the grabbing of members by means fair and foul, and so on, and so forth.

The G. E. B. decides to appoint a special committee of two out-of-town vice-presidents, under the chairmanship of President Schlesinger, to adjust all grievances arising from this intra-local dispute, to carefully examine the claims with regard to individual shops, and to determine what local they should be permanently placed under.

The question of "clubs" and "groups" engages the earnest attention of the G. E. B. There is a division of opinion on the matter of combating this peculiar phenomenon in our organization, which gives rise to a lively debate. "Clubs" of the type that exists in the Boston pressers' local appear to draw the condemnation of every member of the Board. But there are types of "groups," such as have existed and still exist for the past half dozen years in some of the large New York locals, groups with altruistic pretenses, for some of which several members of the Board appear to find a logical reason for existence. And the result of the discussion was the appointment of a committee that would seriously study this matter and bring in a constructive recommendation to the next meeting of the G. E. B.

General Secretary-Treasurer Dubinsky presents an interesting report which covers not only the financial status of the I.L.G.W.U. for the past quarter but goes much further than that, covering the affairs of the International, with regard to certain important developments, since the Cleveland convention of December, 1929. (A separate article dealing with this subject, written by Bro. Dubinsky, is printed elsewhere in this issue.)

And now the New York dress market is up for discussion.

Vice-President Julius Hochman, manager of the New York Dress Joint Board, is reporting.

The picture he draws of the past season in this biggest industry under the jurisdiction of the I.L.G.W.U. is far from cheerful. The dress industry had been hit hard, very hard, in New York, and the workers in this trade are passing through difficult times. A large number of firms have gone out of business owing to the depression, which, so it seems, has affected the dress business harder than any other branch of the garment industry. What this has meant

to our men and women in the shops is easily imaginable.

The depression is adding to the difficulties of dealing with the three associations in the industry. So many firms have gone out of business that these groups of organized employers are confronted with daily losses of membership. Besides, during the past year, actually hundreds of new shops, largely of the small type, have come up in the trade and vanished, and the Joint Board is, as a result of this, faced with the constant task of keeping up organizing activity to establish union conditions in these mushroom shops, lest they do not further demoralize conditions all through the industry.

Yet, the membership of the dress locals, despite these seemingly insurmountable obstacles, is holding fast. There are, naturally, a large number of dressmakers whose union dues are badly in arrears owing to unemployment and who are falling daily out of the "casual" shops. But the spirit in the organization is as high as ever. The dressmakers had faced hard times before this in the history of their industry, and they are hoping that the present critical situation in their shops will not last forever. They are hoping for a better season next fall, when it will once again become possible for them to consolidate their strength and mobilize their forces for the renewal of the collective agreements which expire in mid-winter.

The six-day session comes to an end.

The reports are all in, the composite accounts reported by the members of the Board individually, presented by the committees which appeared before the G. E. B., and read from the letters forwarded to the G. E. B., are all in. And now come the final decisions on each matter separately.

The decisions, as a rule, come swiftly and are adopted unanimously. The picture of each single problem by this time is so clear before the G. E. B., that lengthy debates are superfluous. And President Schlesinger sees to it that waste of time is avoided.

The I.L.G.W.U. is set for its next three months of activity.

Readers of Justice

In case you move from your present quarters, please notify your local office of your new address. We shall then forthwith put your new address on our mailing list.

Decisions

4th Quarterly Meeting G. E. B.

Histadruth, request for financial assistance—\$500 to be contributed.

People's Tool Campaign, request for financial assistance—\$500 to be contributed.

Chicago Dress Campaign—Referred to the general officers to begin such a campaign at the first opportune moment; one of the general officers to visit Chicago.

Philadelphia Dress Campaign—Referred to the general officers to look into the situation at once with a view to start a campaign of organization among dressmakers.

Local No. 71—Request for one local union of pressers in Philadelphia. Request to be granted as soon as campaign will be inaugurated among Philadelphia dressmakers.

Local 1 and 17 Controversy—Committee appointed by the President, consisting of Vice-Presidents Kreindler and Am-dur and President Schlesinger as Chairman, to look into and stop the abuses complained of.

Boston Pressers' Club—Board decided against all clubs in Boston and referred the matter in question to the general officers.

Boston Dress Campaign and Organizer—Referred to the general officers.

Out-of-Town Department—Referred to the general officers with instructions to submit a plan of work and policy for the Department to the next meeting.

Re: Sportswear and Knitgoods Workers—Sportswear to be organized into cloak and dress joint boards; knitgoods question deferred to next meeting.

Hias, Request for Financial Assistance—\$250 pledged.

Baltimore, request for financial assistance to conduct organizing campaign—Referred to the office.

Organization of Los Angeles Dressmakers—financial assistance to San Francisco Cloakmakers—Referred to the office.

Clubs in the Union—Committee to be appointed by President Schlesinger together with general officers to submit report of findings re: clubs and recommendations.

Local No. 38—request for full time supervisor—Referred to the Office.

Local No. 62, to endorse general strike for next season and financial assistance—Strike endorsed; assistance referred to general officers.

Initiation Tax—Beginning with June 1st, \$1.50 tax to be collected when applicant or reinstated member receives his membership book. International form to be used by all locals when the first payment by an applicant is made.

Convention Assessment—Local managers to be instructed to adhere to original decision calling for \$10 tax payment.

Bonds—G. E. B. empowered the New York Board and general officers to devise plan and carry same through to refund bonds upon maturity.

Expiration of Dress Agreements—Gener-

By Vice President MORRIS BIALIS,
Manager Chicago Joint Board

The burning problem on our order of the day here in Chicago at present is the sad plight of the dress workers.

It is a problem that is being discussed not only among the dressmakers but at every local and Joint Board meeting, and our cloakmakers are displaying a keen interest in every plan or suggestion which concerns the dressmakers and their precarious conditions in the shops. The fact is that the situation in the dress trade has never been as chaotic as it is now. The economic crisis has so bewildered the local dress employers that they have completely lost their heads, each of them vying with the other in attempting to bring out as cheaply produced a garment as possible. And since all other factors entering into the making of dresses are more or less fixed, the cost of labor alone remains the only item which these employers may keep on cutting down unhampered and to their hearts' content. Except that when the bottom is finally reached in labor price-cutting they start increasing the work hours for all that traffic would bear. It stands to reason that such unbridled "competition" was bound to lead to irresponsibility and chaos in the shops, from which the workers quite naturally suffer most. The immediate results are—long hours and wages so meagre that the dressmakers literally cannot even eke out the poorest living from their long hours of toil.

Work Conditions Broken Down

This disorder and chaos affects not only the dress operators but the cutters and pressers as well. I stress this point because only until a year ago the situation of the cutters and of the pressers was not as bad as that of the operators. Now, however, their conditions are pretty nearly the same. The dress-

al officers to prepare for renewal of agreements.

Investigation re: ensembles made in dress shops—General officers and dress makers' Joint Board to proceed with investigation, as per decision Third Quarterly Meeting.

Ninfo—Board extended vote of thanks for assistance to General Office during President's absence.

Ex-Patients Tubercular Home of Denver—request for assistance—\$100 to be contributed.

Chicago Looks Ahead

makers' local, which, as compared to the rapid expansion of the dress industry in Chicago, is but a small body, is now passing through a severe struggle for existence as a result of the above-cited factors, and finds it increasingly difficult to maintain and defend union standards and regulations even in the union shops, standards which had taken years of sacrifice and hardships to attain.

Militant Spirit Still Awake

The dressmakers, however, are by no means vanquished or even discouraged. To the contrary, the rampant sweat-shop conditions are stirring up a militant spirit among them and an admirable willingness to fight for a better future. The cry among the workers in the dress markets is—Don't surrender! Let's begin an organizing drive to enroll the non-union workers into the Union! Let's start the campaign for better conditions right now and save the industry from its present chaos!

An organization campaign in the Chicago dress industry has become a vital necessity. It is hopefully anticipated here that the G. E. B. will at its current meeting in Atlantic City, N. J., act upon this very urgent matter, and a committee will be sent for this meeting from Chicago.

Among the Cloakmakers

Right now there is little news among the cloakmakers. Samples and duplicates for the next fall season are being made already in some shops, and we all hope that the next season will be a good one in the cloak trade everywhere. In the cloak locale matters seem to be in pretty good shape; and nominations for officers are now being made for local officers, the election of which is scheduled for next month.

Vice President Breslaw Visits Chicago

In conclusion I wish to mention that we had recently as visitor here in Chicago Vice President Joseph Breslaw, who stopped over for several days on his way to New York from Los Angeles. Bro. Breslaw spoke at some of our local meetings and at the Joint Board concerning the condition of our fellow cloakmakers on the Pacific Coast, and our members listened to his talks with keen interest.

The General Secretary's Page

By DAVID DUBINSKY

THE "CLUB" business, everybody is beginning to see and to admit it, is becoming a problem in our Union.

From all sides complaints are coming in that not only are politics being played within the Union through these "clubs" but that some of these so-called clubs are actually taking over the functions of the union proper in some locals. Members are beginning to ask the question: Who is running the organization in such locals—the "clubs" or the duly elected officials and executives who are supposed to be responsible to the rank and file?

That's precisely the reason why this subject had been placed on the order of the day at our recent G. E. B. at Atlantic City. And the decision of the Board to appoint a committee that would study this matter from every side and angle and bring in a report and a recommendation on it to the next G. E. B. meeting is quite in accord with this sentiment. We want to give our members an opportunity to think into this situation and themselves reach a sound conclusion on it. Now, we want to make this matter quite clear: This is not a Communist problem that we have on hand, as in these "clubs" or groups there are a lot of loyal members involved, men and women who would feel deeply offended if one was to intimate that they are not devoted members of the International. The question, nevertheless, arises—Isn't affiliation with "clubs" direct evidence of dual allegiance, does not it create a "state within a state" in our organization, and should not "club" members on this ground be denied the right to hold office in the Union?

What "club" domination in some locals may lead to is flagrantly shown by the Boston pressers' local case, where the "club" has proved to be factually the union inasmuch as the "club" there practically controls the distribution and the holding of shop jobs. Certainly, this is an intolerable situation that no faithful member of the International would like to see duplicated in any other city or in any other local.

The report we heard at the meeting of the G. E. B. concerning the steady advance being made by Local 62, the White Goods Workers' Union, in unionizing one important shop after another in the past few months, is cheerful news, as we take into account especially the hard times in general and the slender means of this local in particular. It was also good to learn that the Cutters' Union, Local 10, is giving the under-

wear workers splendid support in every effort to unionize the non-union firms through the cutting departments and on the picket lines.

It should be borne in mind that the underwear trade has gone through a drastic change in the last few years, and from a formerly cotton garment industry has now become a silk manufacturing business. The factories have become larger, and the trade has become a stationary New York industry, which makes the prospect of a complete organization of the trade and of establishing uniform union conditions throughout it easier and brighter.

Supervisor Samuel Shore, who has been directing the comeback of Local 62 for the past seven months, is proving that the trust vested in his ability and energy was well placed. If local 62 continues to make headway at the pace it is progressing, the International will surely give the underwear workers a helping hand in their anticipated general drive and will aid in insuring the unionization of this important and large division of our industry in the New York Metropolitan district.

The few hours we spent last Sunday, May 17, at the "first anniversary reunion" of our Baltimore Cloakmakers' Union, Local 4, were pleasant ones from more than one point of view.

We have a real union in Baltimore these days, a small organization, of course, but a compact group of devoted members who, I wish to hope, will stay organized and will learn how to value the benefits of organization in the future. It looks as if the efforts and means the International had invested in Baltimore last year were not spent in vain.

There are still in Baltimore a couple of non-union shops, which are important from the viewpoint of the local cloak trade and which, according to the opinion of our local leaders, must, by all means become union shops. If the Baltimore cloakmakers continue to do their share under the energetic management of Brother Saul Metz, and meet their duties as loyal union people, we have reasons to believe that this hope of theirs will also be realized before long.

We are glad, indeed, that the question of an impartial chairman in the New

York Cloak Industry has been settled by the excellent choice of Mr. George W. Alger. No better selection, in my opinion, could have been made.

The question of choosing a permanent impartial chairman for the Dress and Waist Industry, however, still remains open. Let's hope that this matter will soon be disposed of by the agreement of all the factors concerned in it.

The fervent appeal of the dressmakers of Chicago and of Philadelphia for assistance in organizing the industries in their markets has left a deep impression on the members of the General Executive Board. Never before, perhaps, in the history of their industry have the dressmakers felt the need of a strong union as they feel now. The bad economic conditions have made things in this trade even worse than in any of the other branches of our industry. And in the unorganized centers of the dress industry the employers are actually running riot and are converting their factories into veritable sweat shops where work conditions—hours, wages and treatment—are unbearable.

The International certainly is very, very much interested in this plight of the dressmakers of Philadelphia and Chicago. There does not exist the slightest division of opinion in our midst that both these cities must be organized. If a big effort in this direction has not been made until now, it was due solely to the fact that economic and industrial conditions had made it unwise and inexpedient. The International will now even more keenly be on the lookout for an opportunity, and should the conditions show signs of improvement, it will no doubt become involved in a large scale movement to organize these dress shops and put an end to the chaos, irresponsibility and unspeakable work conditions prevailing in them.

And now we should like to present to our readers, members of the I. L. G. W. U. a few figures, part of the report presented to the G. E. B., which bear directly on our income and expenditures, our assessment collections, debt payments and cancellations, and the membership strength of our International at the present moment.

These figures show, first, that since the Cleveland Convention, in December, 1929, we had paid off liabilities and debts to the sum of \$417,078.45. \$234,565.00 of this amount was raised through the Con-

vention \$10 assessment, and the additional \$182,513.45 was supplied from the regular revenue of the International. This made a large inroad into our income, and we were compelled on that account to forego the carrying on of campaigns and other activities which would otherwise have been undertaken, as we deemed that, as a matter of organizational honor and in order to keep up our solvency and credit as a union, we had to make good the obligations resting upon us.

This sum of \$517,078.45 was paid off during the past 17 months for loans advanced by several banks and as employers' security money squandered by the Communists in 1926. This money, however, does not include the very large funds raised by the International and by the Union as a whole to finance the general cloak strike of 1929, the general dress strike in the Winter of 1930, and other organizing campaign carried out in several cities.

Actually, nevertheless, the International has succeeded in reducing its indebtedness during this period about \$700,000, as you must bear in mind that when we are repaying security money to employers we are not paying back full face value. The reduction of our debt by \$700,000 is, we consider it, a big achievement, but when we place this accomplishment side by side with the fact that we still owe over a million dollars, we must all realize that we still have a grave financial burden on our shoulders, and we are obliged to guide our work and plans with this paramount thought in mind.

A glance at this table should convince the reader that despite the very unfavorable times, our membership has done quite well by their Union in the payment of this convention tax, namely, in remitting the sum of \$234,565 during the first season of collection. The New York Cloak Joint Board locals have done especially well in this matter, having remitted the sum of \$154,700.

The General Office feels quite confident that the efforts to complete the collection of the remaining part of the tax—the Convention intended to have these remittances made in the course of two years—will prove just as successful, and the International will have collected the amount in full before the next convention. We hope that the executives and officers of such locals and joint boards out-of-town especially as have failed to meet their quota for the first collection term, will redouble their efforts and see that their organizations meet their obligations to the International squarely and fully.

SCHEDULE OF CONVENTION ASSESSMENT

Paid by Locals and Joint Boards April 1, 1930 to May 9, 1931

Local No.	Membership (Based on 1930 Census)	Paid on Convention Assessment	Average Per Member
1	6,686	\$36,785.00	\$5.75
3	408	1,607.50	4.00
4	392	---	---
8	147	---	---
9	3,667	26,600.00	5.25
10	3,266	19,000.00	5.75
17	2,132	9,602.50	4.50
20	605	1,000.00	1.50
22	10,000	26,000.00	2.50
23	674	1,370.00	2.00
28	8	40.00	5.00
35	5,081	30,085.00	5.75
38	1,105	3,850.00	3.50
41	1,621	---	---
48	6,014	37,410.00	6.00
50	551	1,250.00	2.25
62	1,146	---	---
65	288	---	---
66	325	---	---
67	45	100.00	2.25
75	45	75.00	1.50
82	207	725.00	3.50
89	6,000	16,500.00	2.75
91	971	---	---
Out-of-Town (Conn., L. I., N. J. Westchester)	940	---	---
Joint Boards:			
New York Cloak (undistributed)	---	4,055.00	---
Boston	1,741	2,000.00	1.25
Chicago	1,799	5,500.00	3.00
Cleveland	1,118	1,000.00	---
Montreal	1,617	2,500.00	1.50
Philadelphia	728	3,000.00	4.00
St. Louis	125	325.00	2.75
Toronto	1,937	3,500.00	1.75
Miscellaneous (throughout country)	---	325.00	---
	62,831	\$234,565.00	---
SUMMARY			
New York Cloak Joint Board	26,759	\$154,700.00	---
New York Dress Joint Board	18,647	55,200.00	---
Total	45,406	\$209,900.00	---
Miscellaneous Locals in New York	5,962	4,850.00	---
Total New York Locals and Joint Boards	51,368	\$214,750.00	---
Locals and Joint Board Outside of New York	11,463	19,815.00	---
Grand Total	62,831	\$234,565.00	---

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS

January 1 to May 9, 1931

Pues Per Capital @ 15c		\$115,908.65
Convention Assessment		95,647.50
Supplies		1,006.48
Special Tax (10c)		2,240.30
Initiation Fee \$1.50 tax		3,307.50
Advertising		333.84
Interest — Savings a/c		72.91
Miscellaneous Income		454.17
L. L. G. W. U. Bonds		100.00
Collections Received:		
From locals for organizing expenses	\$5,150.00	
Volkszeitung and Bund	395.00	
Polish Needle Trades	306.00	6,141.00
Collections for Local 72 Strike:		
Local 22	1,000.00	
Local 35	200.00	1,200.00
Total Receipts		\$226,460.35

(Continued on page 14)

Editorial Page of JUSTICE

AS THESE LINES are being written, the General Executive Board of the I. L. G. W. U. is having a quarterly meeting in Atlantic City, N. J.

The G. E. B. Meeting

The G. E. B. meeting is faced with an agenda as wide and all-inclusive as the far-flung framework and ramifications of our industry. Hardly a market, hardly an organization has failed to send a request, or a committee, to the meeting for the consideration of the specific problems that trouble it most. There are appeals for the sanctioning of strikes, requests for financial and organizing assistance, disturbing, or annoying, jurisdictional disputes, plans and suggestions for organizational economy and budgeting, each of them of vital interest to the section, market or group involved.

All these clamors, demands and suggestions the "little parliament" of the International will carefully examine, discuss and decide upon. Not all these requests and pleas for help probably will be granted, *can* be granted. Even under favorable industrial conditions, the demands put on the General Executive Board by the various markets are frequently overemphasized and out of proportion. But under the present economic circumstances, the depressing uncertainty which permeates the whole industrial life of the country, the executive arm of the International naturally is likely to weigh things with even greater caution and circumspection before sanctioning moves that might lead to earnest complications.

Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the General Executive Board will do everything within the means at its command to meet every demand without bias or favor and with one object solely in view—the ultimate benefit of the organization as a whole and the concrete interests of the membership of the various crafts in the markets of our industry.



THE membership of the I. L. G. W. U., and the organized labor movement in general, will learn with genuine satisfaction that President Schlesinger has returned to his post, after an absence of several months, caused by ill health. It is sincerely hoped by all the friends of our organization that his recovery is permanent, and that from now on he will unhampered be able to devote his gifts and energies to the leadership of our Union.

Welcome, President Schlesinger

Simultaneously, let us say good-bye to Bro. David Dubinsky, who is leaving within a few days for Lodz, Poland, to visit his old ailing father. Bro. Dubinsky, the tireless, resourceful and very much liked General Secretary-Treasurer of the International, has certainly earned his forthcoming short vacation. Good-bye, and bon voyage!



THE TORONTO STRIKE is at an end. The dress industry of that city is now returning to "normalcy."

Elsewhere in this issue, there is printed a graphic story of this strike, told by Brother Bernard Shane, one of its principal leaders. A perusal of this account cannot fail to impress the reader that the Toronto women's garment workers have scored

a remarkable victory for themselves and for the International Union to which they belong. The fact that this victory was achieved in the midst of a devastating economic crisis makes it all the more amazing.

There are still a few hundred unorganized dress makers in Toronto, working in non-union shops. Some of these workers did not originally respond to the strike call, while others were intimidated by their die-hard employers from joining the strike. But the organized dress workers of Toronto now have full faith that before long these stragglers who were left behind in the march of the Union will make common cause with their sisters and brothers and help complete the job of unionizing the dress industry of their city.



THE SELECTION of George W. Alger as Impartial Chairman of the Cloak and Suit Industry of New York is a happy choice on which all the organized factors in this industry should be congratulated.

An Excellent Choice

Mr. Alger, aside from outstanding ability, a fine reputation for integrity, and a sharp, analytical mind, brings to his new post a valuable familiarity with the affairs of the cloak and suit trade in New York, its most important market, an experience which he gained during the two years he has been presiding over the Cloak and Suit Commission appointed in 1929 by Governor Roosevelt after the cloak general strike.

The cloak and suit trade of New York may be faced, in the not distant future, with a number of intricate situation which will require intelligent approach and a seasoned understanding of both human and industrial relations for their equitable and proper adjustment. It is confidently hoped that, in his role as impartial arbiter, Mr. Alger, who has consented to accept his new duties upon the earnest request of the essential factors in the cloak and suit industry, will be in a position to apply his prestige and gifts toward the lessening of the evils from which this industry suffers.



WITHIN TWO WEEKS, on June 20, the Unity House opens its doors for the 13th season of its existence.

Readers of "Justice" require no re-telling of the old, never-changing natural beauty of this superb summer home of ours. The tens of thousands of guests—members of our Union and their friends—who have visited Unity or spent a vacation there have spread far and wide the glory of its lake and groves, the charm of its location and the grandeur of its surroundings.

This year, nevertheless,—and this we may tell in all sincerity—the host of guests descending upon the Forest Park resort of our Union will find it a completely changed, a thoroughly renovated Unity House, with added comforts, multiplied attractions, and vastly improved equipment for service.

And last but not least, Unity House this summer is having a new kitchen and dining room management. The food department has been put under the direction of an ex-

perienced and intelligent caterer who is assisted by a staff of skilled chefs. In other words, Unity House guests this season may be assured of a fundamental improvement in the quality of the food served and of the quality of service. The management is determined to make this department come up to the highest of excellence and will spare no effort to square facts with promises.

The International Union, through the Unity House Committee, extends a hearty welcome to its members and friends everywhere in the East—former Unity House patrons and newcomers—to a better, improved, greater Unity House with the old, unaffected cordiality and fellowship.



THE DECISION OF THE G. E. B., made upon the initiative of President Schlsinger, to appoint a committee of three Board members, to sift to the bottom every claim and counter-claim made by both parties in the bitter controversy between Local 1, Cloak Operators, and Local 17, Reefer Makers, of New York City, is a constructive step that should go far in permanently eradicat-

ing this perennial source of rancor within the New York cloak organization.

President Schlesinger aptly characterized the situation when he stated that there is no room for "puller-in" tactics of rivalry between these two locals in our Union, just as there is no sense nor logic for dual control of shops by two locals. He emphasized the difficulty of drawing a sharp line of demarcation with regard to Locals 1 or 17 in many shops where both small size and large size garments are being produced, a difficulty realized from the very outset by the mixed committee which attempted to work out a satisfactory modus operandi between the two locals shortly after Local 17 had been re-chartered.

The sub-committee now appointed by the General Executive Board, consisting of two vice-presidents from outside of New York, Brothers Amdur and Kreindler, with President Schlesinger heading it, plans to go over all claims affecting each and every shop in dispute, no matter how long this takes, and to determine under what local they should be permanently classed. And the personnel of this sub-committee serves as an advance guarantee that the job will be done earnestly, painstakingly and in a spirit of square-dealing to both parties concerned.

New Season Brings Many Changes at Unity House

The Decoration Day week-end, as usual, brought out a capacity crowd of guests to Unity House, the Forest Park summer resort owned and operated by the I.L.G.W.U.

By far the most pleasant surprise that greeted the new and old friends of the House were the numerous innovations introduced by the management, the new kitchen and dining room service in particular, and the spruced up appearance of the buildings, inside and outside. Everywhere were marks of expert, competent management and of changes designed to add to the comfort and pleasure of vacationists.

The walks and cottages have been made to look more beautiful. The waterfront along Unity Lake and the lockers for the bathers have been renovated. The tennis courts and other athletic facilities have been put in excellent shape. The "eats" are in charge of Ben Schindler, expert caterer and dietician. The long dining room tables are replaced by cosy square tables. New glassware, silverware and crockery impress upon the guest the cleanliness and neatness with which the meals are being served.

Special Program for July 4

While the official opening of the House is set for June 20, the next big event at Unity House is scheduled for the July 4th week-end. A special program, which includes an all-star cast, has been arranged that will compare favorably with

Decoration Day Week-End Draws Big Crowd—Official Opening on Saturday, June 20

the best ever offered on former Unity House occasions.

Bear this in mind: Unity House, formerly a rendezvous of the wealthy, and now a place where union members and friends of labor generally may find rest and recreation, offers every facility which no vacation resort of the highest

order of excellence can excel. And because it is run not for profit but for the benefit of the organized labor movement, its rates are low and are not a strain on workers' pocketbooks.

Jacob Halperin, for years associated with the Unity House Committee, and Vice-President of the I.L.G.W.U., is manager of Unity House, and Morris Novik, who has been associated with Unity for four years, is associate manager. Vice-President Isidore Nagler is Chairman of the Unity House Committee, and Vice-President Elias Reisberg of Philadelphia, is Secretary of the Committee.

Warsaw Tailors' Union Thanks I.L.G.W.U.

"Dear Brothers:

"May I ask you to publish in 'Justice' the following few words?

"In the name of the Warsaw section of the Clothing Workers' Union of Poland we wish to thank heartily all the comrades and friends who participated and are still taking part in the collection of funds for our organization which finds itself in a very precarious financial condition. The Warsaw clothing workers, raised in the spirit of class solidarity, know how to appraise this big-hearted attitude on your part at this hour of our dire need. Our heartiest thanks go out especially to Brother David Du-

binsky, the initiator of this relief fund, who has displayed such a touching sympathy with us in our efforts to keep up our activity. Comrade Dubinsky, accept these thanks as the expression of comradesly recognition of your work for the thousands of Polish clothing workers. Your warm attitude towards us offers the best proof of your loyal services as leader of the American women's garment workers. We take this opportunity, also to thank Comrade Benjamin Schlesinger, our old friend and brother, and to wish him complete recovery.

"From the Warsaw Clothing Workers,
"S. H. HIMELFARB, Secretary,
M. ROSENBAUM, Chairman."

Run O' The Month

By M. D. DANISH

THE RETIREMENT of Colonel Arthur Woods as chairman of President Hoover's Emergency Committee for Employment is accompanied by the assertion that "there has been a perceptible improvement in general conditions, but it is not enough to justify the committee in discontinuing its work."

The withdrawal of Mr. Woods makes the futility of this Hoover "emergency committee" sort of official. Despite the trumpeting and fanfare which greeted its launching last year, few people actually expected much from this committee, which appeared to have been handicapped and muzzled from inception by its own creators, while most persons with adult minds regarded it as a Republican pre-election move pure and simple.

That this "emergency" outfit actually never was meant to accomplish anything substantial in unemployment relief became a foregone conclusion after it was announced that its scope of activity had been limited to "contacting" with employers all over the country and "impressing" upon them the urgency of carrying into effect the general Hoover unemployment relief policies—whatever that may have meant. It indicated further that the committee was not to prepare a constructive program of relief to Congress, nor even to present to the American public a politically unvarnished picture of the idleness and distress the country over.

With Colonel Woods, its sole window-dressing, gone, Hoover's "emergency committee" may now fold its tent and silently steal away. Few, very few among the unemployed of America will notice its disappearance.

IF ONE THING HAS BEEN made clear by this year First of May demonstration in New York City it is that even a moderate-size open air meeting and parade on that day is worth an indoor meeting twice its size.

It was the first time in years—practically since after the World War—that a number of New York labor unions had held an open air demonstration on the First of May. The number of those who took part in this outdoor celebration was much smaller than the great host that came to the May Day Madison Square Garden meeting two years ago. Yet, by common consent, it was a much more impressive gathering, and for the following reasons:

Inherently and traditionally First of May symbolizes a protest of the working class that finds its fullest expression in

outdoor demonstrations, street parades and open air gatherings. Indoor meetings somehow do not fully represent the spirit of the First of May.

Another reason is that this year's First of May happened on a week-day—not on a Saturday afternoon as in 1929 when the big Madison Square meeting took place—and those workers who took part this time in the midday demonstration actually had to leave off work to come to the parade or the meeting. The men and women who came in the thousands to celebrate the First of May this year in Union Square had given up something to show their solidarity with the workers the world over.

And that counts.

IT IS REPORTED that the delegates from the thirty-five countries to the International Chamber of Commerce convention in Washington early last month were treated to a surprise when President Hoover, appearing before them at the opening session, rather bluntly told them that they should primarily interest themselves in disarmament as a means to revive international trade and to overcome the universal depression.

But whether these international businessmen and financiers were actually surprised or not, they no doubt showed by their subsequent speeches that they were deeply disappointed by Hoover's restatement of American policy with regard to the revival of world business. For, regardless of the merit contained in the President's remarks concerning disarmament, the Washington convention did not assemble for the purpose of discussing army or navy cuts. The delegates from foreign countries who came to Washington to discuss the worldwide economic and industrial crisis came there with the chief purpose in mind to attack high tariffs, war debts and similar world problems in which this country is vitally concerned. In fact they came to stress that these burdens were the chief obstacles in the way of European industrial rehabilitation and that unless something radical is done about it Europe can never become an importer of American commodities and help relieve American industrial stagnation.

But instead of raising any hopes in this direction, the President's sermon on land armaments showed these representatives of European business and indus-

try that they need not expect any relief in the matters of tariffs and war debts. In these matters, the United States, now as before, plans to go her way alone, and that's about all there is to it.

A "LABOR BEER LEGION" has been formed a few weeks ago in Philadelphia, under the leadership of Matthew Woll, seeking to align the full strength of American organized labor for dry law modification to permit the return of light wines and beer—principally beer.

This "liberty legion" organized under the auspices of an anti-Volstead conference by the authority of the American Federation of Labor, frankly leaves us cold. Somehow we cannot enthuse over the idea of this fifty-fifty battle cry against an "impossible government tyranny," that would thunder against prohibition on beer and would acquiesce in prohibition on hard liquors. If the Volstead act is an assault on the personal liberties of beer drinkers, it is just as much of a cancellation of the individual rights of rye and Scotch consumers.

The promoters of the "beer crusade" who are trying to leave hard drinks out of their program by way of compromise with the Volstead fanatics, it strikes us, are making a mistake which they will be not long in discovering. To divide the attack on Prohibition means to weaken the forces arraigned against it. To attempt to bargain with the Drys on this subject is worse than futile.

THE POPE'S RADIO broadcast on May 15, heralding a new Catholic "labor charter," is, allowing all discounts by critics, both friendly and carping, one of the significant happenings of last month.

The Catholic Church, concededly, is an eminently realistic organization. It watches the social wind currents with a keen eye and foresees the shadows of coming events. This is not the first time that high Catholic dignitaries endorsed trade unionism, but it is the first time that the head of the Church actually demands for the workers "a more equitable distribution of the united proceeds of capital and labor."

Clear enough, even the Catholic Church is fast beginning to realize that the world is rapidly racing toward collectivism. Selfish, grasping capitalism is breaking down on all fronts, capitalist production even in its most successful fields of operation is creaking at all seams, suffering from fatal disorders which are inherent in its very system.

The curious and contradictory part of the Pope's encyclical is that while it

speaks promiscuously of "communism and socialism" and asserts that it is not possible to be at the same time a good Catholic and a true socialist, the demands of the "new labor charter" it embodies are essentially socialistic.

GERARD SWOPE'S speech at the International Chamber of Commerce gathering in Washington probably was the outstanding talk delivered at that convention.

The president of the giant General Electric Company frankly declared that the magnates of industry—American and international—heretofore completely ignored the fate of their workers, giving little heed to the fact that these workers are the creators of all the world's wealth. Unemployment is a curse not only upon idle workers and their families, it is a curse upon society as a whole. It breaks down the purchasing power of the community and inflicts untold harm upon industry. . . . Insurance against idleness is not merely a humanitarian measure, it is an industrial necessity. Experience has taught us that the better conditions of labor are in an industry the higher is the workers' productivity. . . . Improvement of labor conditions, therefore, is the best investment an industry can make. The problem of abolition of unemployment, Mr. Swope stated, is one that should interest all society; it would bring down poverty to a minimum, and would save the workers from becoming objects of charity as in the current crisis.

Planned production, Mr. Swope concluded, would do away with the evil of industrial idleness. Each industry must care for its workers; each industry must so plan its production that there would be work for the men employed in it all year around, not only for a few months. If industry will plan its production there will be no unemployment, and consequently there will be no need for unemployment insurance.

But who will plan production for industry and how will it be regulated?

Gerard Swope, like all other industrial magnates, believes that the interference of governmental departments be as little as possible. He believes in "free" competition, in a "free hand" in industry—who, then, will, under Mr. Swope's scheme of things, undertake, or be given the power, to regulate or to plan production? Who will have to say when certain trades or factories should come to a stop and when others should open for production?

These questions are left unanswered in Mr. Swope's otherwise very fine speech. The simple answer, of course, is—the abolition of this haphazard sys-

The Month in Boston

By PHILIP KRAMER,
Joint Board Manager

Pay for Patriots' Day

We have a clause in our agreement with the Boston Cloak Contractors' Association which provides for pay to all workers for Patriots' Day, April 19, a legal holiday in the State of Massachusetts. Well, this spring we had to fight it out on this score with this group of employers, and after a considerable tussle gained our point in full.

It started with a complaint by the workers of Greenberg & Sirota, President of the Cloak Contractors' Association, that they were not paid for April 19. After a few visits to this firm, I became convinced that not only did they violate this provision but that it was a planned effort on the part of the entire association to resist payment for Patriots' Day.

We at once conceived that if we were to go with this matter to the impartial chairman we would only delay matters and play into the hands of the contractors by giving them an opportunity to finish all the work they had on hand. So I immediately stopped off a few shops. The association thereupon called us to a conference on Saturday, April 26, at the Hotel Bradford, which was attended, besides myself, by Brothers Finkelstein, Raymond and Berman, acting President of the Joint Board. We told the contractors briefly and tersely that the question of payment for any legal holiday specified in the agreement was not a subject for discussion or bargaining, and that if they had anything new to bring up they might do it only after payment for the holiday had been made to all the workers employed in the association shops. We then withdrew, and were called in again later in the after-

noon to be informed that a sub-committee had agreed to our demand for payment, asking the Union to send all the stopped off workers back to work.

Union Shows Fight

I agreed to this, reserving, however, to myself, the right to visit the shops on the following Tuesday to check up on the promise made by the association that all their members would pay up the shortage on Monday next. On Tuesday, I found out that these unreliable contractors were again playing for time to finish out the little work they had on hand and that only the workers of Greenberg & Sirota were paid on Monday. Accordingly, we again stopped off the workers in Stoloff & Kaplan, A. Dashefsky, White Bros., Hyde Bros., Wasserman Bros., and Michaels Cloak Co., and were about to make several more stoppages when I was prevailed upon by the jobber firm of Ullian & Horofsky that they would make good for all contractors having work to finish out. A conference was again arranged at which this question was finally settled. At this writing, we are certain that all the workers involved in this dispute would be paid.

This aggressive stand by the Union aroused a lot of interest in the organization, and at the following Joint Board meeting the delegates praised the action of Manager Kramer in resisting the attempt of the employers to openly defy and violate our agreement. The workers of all the shops directly affected by these stoppages also voted thanks to the leaders of the organization, promising to bring complaints of all agreement violations promptly to the office on all future occasions.

To Restrain Union-Baiting Firm

Shortly before leaving for the G. E. B. meeting, I was notified by our attorneys, Roewer & Bearack, that we must get ready testimony for a bill in equity which the Boston Joint Board is bringing before a Master in Chancery against one of the largest cloak firms in this city for violations of its agreement with the Union. The bill is being sought against the firm of Factor & Freedman, 35 Kneeland Street, and is to restrain this firm from running a non-union shop.

The Union is determined to fight it out to a finish with this union-baiting employer. No expense nor time will be spared to bring this unreasoning firm to realize that it can gain nothing by fighting the Union.

News and Events in Local 22

MAX BLUESTEIN,
Secretary-Treasurer

The daily press is crowded with stories of bread lines. Cases of starvation have become so commonplace that we pass on such reports without even the shrug of a shoulder. Doubtless, people read of the desperate plight of the dressmakers in the same nonchalant vein. They pass on to other news, less unpleasant, if they can find such.

But to the dressmaker, the news of his trade and of the struggles of his fellow workers to keep body and soul together, is of principal concern. Everything else matters little. Of similar and even greater interest to him are the plans and means with which his Union undertakes to solve his many problems, and to combat the various difficulties.

Conditions Are Desperate

Few administrations, if any, assumed office under less favorable circumstances than we did last month. The condition of the dressmakers is most desperate. It is nothing unusual to hear of a worker earning \$20.00 for a full week's work. The helplessness of our members under these adverse conditions beggars description. Little wonder therefore, that the organized dressmakers, and for that matter the unorganized, too, are on the verge of rebellion. They are bitter against everybody and everything. And they are not to be blamed.

Now, we intend to mobilize this discontent. We intend to imbue the membership with a new spirit that would solidify our ranks and prepare the ground for an open conflict with the employers, which now seems imminent.

How, and by which means do we propose to achieve these things? It is a recognized fact that as long as there is lack of cooperation between the membership and its leaders, there can be no reasonable hope for success. That such a condition exists in our Union there is no doubt. Whether this indifference or apathy may be attributed to the leadership or is the fault of the members is not important at the moment. We hope and propose to overcome this condition by a determined effort to establish a closer contact between the rank and file and its leadership. To achieve this purpose, we intend not only to call upon our members to cooperate with us in the various campaigns, to pay regularly their dues to the Union, and to attend meetings, but

we will also insist that they share in many of the functions which are now assumed by the officially constituted committees and Executive Board.

To Form New Contacts

To that end, and as a first step in this direction, we have immediately proceeded to:

a) Establish a system of district shop chairmen meetings. Which means that the shops under the control of each and every business agent would establish permanent organizations. At these meetings, the business agent would give a complete report to the shop chairmen of his work. This will include all complaints adjusted, the shops organized, and the many other activities incidental to the discharge of his duties. These meetings, too, will afford the shop chairmen a full opportunity to discuss with their business agent and with their fellow shop chairmen in their immediate district the various problems that are confronting them.

The shop chairmen are the direct representatives of the people in the shops. They work with them at the benches; they settle the prices; and they divide the work. Gaining the confidence and cooperation of the shop chairmen means gaining the confidence and cooperation of the workers in their shops.

b) We propose, and have in fact already created, a volunteer organization in our Union. Instead of being led by the officers of the organization, this committee, too, was given what may be called "self-rule." It has its own chairman, its own secretary, and its own executive board. It is working in close cooperation with the official organization committee, appointed by the Executive Board.

c) A new and more definite policy must be assumed by our Union towards the employers. Under the guise of "hard times" and without any regard for the existing agreements, the employers have wilfully reduced our members to a state of sweat shop exploitation, degradation, and starvation.

Not Afraid of New Ideas

This briefly represents the essence of our program. We do not know how these plans will work out, but we are quite confident of its ultimate success. We are not afraid of a new idea. Above all, we do not hesitate to share the executive functions of the Union with the great mass of our members. On the contrary, we feel that by giving the members a

larger measure of authority we automatically impose upon them certain obligations and duties which they cannot easily evade.

We have arrived at these conclusions after mature thought. One needs but to examine, even superficially, the present condition of our Union to be convinced that the situation is desperate. The plight which our membership is now facing can only be compared to the miserable conditions prevailing prior to the 1909 strike.

All the safeguards of our agreements and the guarantees which they contain to protect the right of the workers to earn a living in decency and self respect, seem to have vanished into thin air. At no time since 1909 were dressmakers forced to work at such prices as the employers dare to offer them today.

Such conditions, admittedly, call for some heroic efforts, and we propose to go the limits to put the organization back on its feet, to regain for the dressmakers the self-respect which is due them as workers and citizens.

We hope to return to this theme in the forthcoming issue of "Justice," when we may discuss it in greater detail.

...

We take this opportunity to extend to our members, in behalf of the entire administration, our thanks for the confidence they had placed in us in the last election. We hope that our future actions will merit a continuation of this confidence, both, on the part of those who voted for us, as well as of those who voted against us. In the final analysis, our main objective is to gain for our members better conditions and means for a decent and respectful livelihood. Whatever one's opinion may be matters little, so long as this principal thought is kept in mind.

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## UNION HEALTH CENTER NEWS

### Hay Fever Time Is Here!

Those suffering from Hay Fever should make arrangement for a course of treatment now. The results of treatment after the attack sets in are not as satisfactory. Most people who are afflicted with this ailment need treatment during the whole summer. The Union Health Center has treated hundreds of patients with very good results. The charges are less than in most of the city hospitals, and patients are taken care of without wasting a lot of their time standing in lines. Readers of "Justice" are urged to come and consult our physician.



# The Story of the Toronto Dress Strike

**INTENSIVE WORK** to organize the dress shops in Toronto was begun in August of last year, on direct instruction from the General Office of the I. L. G. W. U. We expected at that time that we could carry through a sizable drive at little expense, hoping, besides, that the general depression which embraced Canada as well as the United States would soon lift. By the end of August, Brother Harry Langer, a member of Local 14, was appointed to assist in the special work of organizing the dress workers.

The campaign at once began to receive a warm response in the dress shops, and by the middle of December we had 700 members enrolled in Local 72, the dressmakers' local. But as the season was rather dull we were hesitating about the advisability of a strike. Nevertheless, the workers continued to flock into the Union, and by the end of January we had already 800 dressmakers in the local. So when these facts were presented to the G. E. B. meeting last February, the leadership of the International endorsed a strike and the general officers were given full authority to act.

During the pre-strike period, Vice-Presidents Reisch and Feinberg visited Toronto at the request of the General Office to observe the situation and to report back concerning the prospects of a strike. It is interesting that both of them, after acquainting themselves with the feeling among the local workers, decided in favor of a strike.

## Strike Called on February 25

Yet, the uncertainty prevailed until the last hour. Finally Secretary-Treasurer Dubinsky came to Toronto for the last mass-meeting and when he saw the enthusiasm among the dressmakers and the large number of the enrolled workers—by that time over 1,000—he gave the order to strike.

The walkout took place on Wednesday, February 25, in the morning, affecting from 1200 to 1300 workers, about three-fourths of the industry. We at once proceeded to make arrangements to meet the employers for a settlement. At the outset, the dress manufacturers proved very stubborn. The Labor Department of the Province of Ontario had made serious efforts to bring both sides together. The Federal Minister of Labor also sent a special representative to Toronto to help settle the strike, but the employers refused all offers and the strike had to continue. We, on the other hand, refused to entertain applications for indi-

By **BERNARD SHANE**,  
Manager Toronto Joint Board

vidual settlements which began to come in during the first week of the strike until we became certain that there was no other way. Then, within a period of three weeks, we signed up with 18 firms out of the 60 shops that responded to the strike call of the Union.

## The Strike Leadership

The workers in the Toronto dress shops are mostly young women and men, immigrants from Eastern European countries, very few of them with actual trade union or strike experience. It was necessary, therefore, that we obtain experienced workers from other trades to help us lead the strike. And so Brother Samuel Kraisman, ex-chairman of the Toronto Cloakmakers' Joint Board, was asked to become chairman of the picket committee. (It is regretful, indeed, that Brother Kraisman's name, who has performed all during this strike excellent and creditable work, had been omitted in all former reports concerning the Toronto dress strike which appeared in our publications.) Brother H. Langer was appointed chairman of the Hall and Organization committees, and Brother Dubinsky asked the Women's Trade Union League of New York to permit Sister Sadie Reisch to come to Toronto for a couple of weeks to help in the strike.

Sister Reisch arrived here on the second day of the strike and Brother Reisch came on the same day. Both of them got busy at once helping to organize the strikers into proper units, elect shop chairmen, and to assign picket committees to the various shops.

Special credit must be given the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union of Toronto for having "loaned" the writer of this article, who is manager of the Joint Board, to give up all his work for the Joint Board for the duration of the strike to be able to give his full time to it. Brothers Kirzner and London, business agents of the Joint Board, were also given leave for a time to devote all their activity to the strike. Brother London remained with the dress strike for one week, while Brother Kirzner continued with the dressmakers for three weeks, at first attending shop meetings, and later taking care of the law department doing his work in an earnest and efficient manner. After two weeks, the Joint

Board donated the sum of \$1,000 to the strikers and levied, besides, a special assessment of a dollar a week on all the male members of the Joint Board locals and of a half dollar on all the women members. The members of the Toronto locals paid this burdensome tax willingly and the Joint Board continued to give the strikers its moral and financial support to the very last day of the strike. And when benefits had to be paid to the strikers the Joint Board again donated \$2,000, which helped the strike greatly.

## Splendid Army of Strikers

A few words about the strikers themselves. As I said already, they consisted mostly of young boys and girls, and I have never seen a more enthusiastic group of strikers during all the 22 years of my membership in the International. It was a pleasure for Sister Reisch, Bro. Langer, Bro. Kraisman and myself to go down to the picket lines many mornings to observe these young workers stopping the scabs from entering the factories with little fear of the police or the gangsters hired by the employers. These young strikers, indeed, gave a good account of themselves when it came to defending themselves from the brutes who were "guarding" the strikebreakers.

The employers used the regular tricks to cajole the strikers into deserting the fight—in the form of warnings that they would lose their jobs permanently unless they came back within a certain period, by personal visits to the homes of the strikers, by hiring private "detectives" to harass the strikers, and by employing gangsters to do some dirty work for them. All this, however, did not daunt our workers in the least, and after some effective publicity with regard to the employment of gangsters by the bosses, these roughnecks were taken off the streets to the great relief of our men and women.

Meanwhile individual settlements continued slowly but surely until the number of union shops reached 28. It was about that time that General Secretary Dubinsky visited Toronto again to review the strike, towards the end of its sixth week. When he came here he found that a great many of the strike-bound firms continued in their stubbornness because they were convinced that the dressmakers had no money and would soon be starved into submission and they also believed that the Union would not be able to pay the strikers any benefit—\$7.00 a week to married men and \$4.00 to single

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## Story of Toronto Dress Strike

(Continued from page 13)

people. At that time, too, we also received an invitation from the Board of Control and the Mayor of the city to attempt to get together with a view toward a settlement. The employers, who had their lawyer with them, however, indulged at this conference in making all kinds of charges against the International, and when Brother Dubinsky began to reply to these charges and point to the unfair conduct of the employers during the strike they left the room in a body.

### Union Meets Challenge

In answer to this defiant challenge, Brother Dubinsky deposited \$20,000 in a leading local bank for a strike benefit fund, and the fight continued. The results of this move soon became obvious as it immediately impressed a great many employers with the fact that the Union would see this strike through to the very end.

We are now happy to report that the strike is successfully terminated with the result that 42 firms have signed union agreements and have given substantial wage increases to all workers. One thousand dressmakers are now employed in these union shops, and while we were forced to give up the strike in the other 15 shops where about 200 workers are employed, our people are jubilant with the outcome. And when we consider the general depression in Canada and the enormous amount of unemployment, we can not help congratulating the International and the Toronto Joint Board with this splendid achievement.

We have established here in this first attempt of ours a splendid dressmakers' organization, and we now have every sound reason to believe that the complete organization of the Toronto dress industry is but a matter of a short time.

At our final meeting on May 5, we had a thousand workers crammed into a hall which holds only 600 persons and it proved one of the most enthusiastic meetings ever held in this city. To prove their loyalty to the International the dressmakers voted to increase their dues from 25c to 35c weekly. At the same time they also promised to give 10 per cent of their wages for another week to help those who had lost their jobs in the unsettled shops.

### Credit to Whom It Is Due

First, our thanks go to the Women's Trade Union League of New York for

main with us for the duration of the strike. If it were not for Sister Relsch we are not certain that we could have been able to conduct the fight as we did. She has instilled a spirit of idealism and self-sacrifice among the strikers, especially among the girls, that none of us here were able to do. Then, Brother H. Langer, a young man with practically no strike experience, proved to be not only a capable organizer but also a skillful executive, with courage and understanding and a gift for leadership. Bro. Kraisman, as chairman of the picket committee, also proved to be an excellent strike administrator, second to none of his fellow co-workers throughout the struggle. He worked day and night, and not only the pickets but every striker really came to admire him personally.

The strikers express their gratitude to the Press of Toronto—The Mail and Empire, The Jewish Journal, The Globe, The Star, and The Evening Telegram—

for the generous space and consideration they had given our cause and for aiding us to acquaint the general public with the intolerable work conditions in the dress shops against which we were fighting. It was through this fair publicity that a number of public-spirited citizens and societies had become interested in our campaign, such as the Young Women's Christian Association, the United Churches, a group of University professors and students as well as a number of clergymen who had been active creating public sentiment for our strikers and collecting funds for them.

Of course, this glorious fight and the substantial victory we scored would have been impossible without the aid of our International and the wholehearted support of General Secretary-Treasurer, Bro. David Dubinsky. During his several visits here—as well as through the daily talks over the telephone to New York with him—he helped us greatly to carry on this battle, constantly encouraging us in every way possible to keep up the fight until it is won.

## The General Secretary's Page

(Continued from page 7)

### STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS January 1 to May 9, 1931

|                                               |            |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Salaries—General Officers and Office .....    | \$8,082.00 |                     |
| Administrative Expenses .....                 | 17,933.49  |                     |
| Interest and Discount on Notes Payable .....  | 3,807.70   |                     |
| Interest on I. L. G. W. U. Bonds .....        | 2,208.75   |                     |
| Auditing Department .....                     | 2,850.00   |                     |
| Educational Department .....                  | 1,007.00   |                     |
| Record Department .....                       | 1,081.05   |                     |
| Mailing Department .....                      | 1,150.02   |                     |
| Publication Department .....                  | 10,751.22  |                     |
| Organizers' Salaries .....                    | 10,744.50  |                     |
| Organizing Expense .....                      | 14,748.17  |                     |
| Donation to Local 72 Strike .....             | 10,000.00  |                     |
| Advance for New York Locals to Local 72 ..... | 2,500.00   |                     |
| Legal fees .....                              | 4,302.25   |                     |
| General Executive Board Expenses .....        | 957.07     |                     |
| A. P. of L. Per Capita .....                  | 3,200.00   |                     |
| Donations .....                               | 4,310.55   |                     |
| Special Tax Payments (Old Age) .....          | 2,300.00   |                     |
| I. L. G. W. U. Bonds—Refunded .....           | 1,500.00   |                     |
| Notes Payable .....                           | 34,500.00  |                     |
| Loans Payable .....                           | 9,548.40   |                     |
| Monthly Payments on Loans .....               | 21,024.29  |                     |
| Securities .....                              | 50,842.95  |                     |
| Loans Receivable — Given .....                | 2,090.00   |                     |
| Paid Out on a/c of Collections (See Receipts) |            |                     |
| Volkzeitung & Bund .....                      | 1,000.00   |                     |
| Polish Needle Trades .....                    | 700.00     | 1,700.00            |
| <b>Total Disbursements .....</b>              |            | <b>\$230,876.61</b> |

An examination of these two tables shows that despite the unfavorable work season, especially in the dress industry, the General Office has had an income of \$226,466 in the first 14 weeks of the current year, which, in our judgment, is an excellent showing.

On the other hand, it will be seen that for the same period the disbursements of the International totaled up to \$230,876.

A large part of the expense went toward the payment of debts and obligations. Let us hope that the next season in our industry will be a better one and will achieve a double purpose—it will raise the earnings and improve the condition of our workers, and will, at the same time, improve our revenue and will gradually remove the debt burden under which our Union is still staggering.



# The Month in Local 10

By SAMUEL PERLMUTTER

## Slack Time Problems

Now, that the slack season in the cloak and dress shops has arrived, the office is as usual confronted with problems which are typical of the dull period—equal division of work.

The problem of equal division of work arises largely from differences that develop between cutters as the season comes to an end. In many cases cutters appear at the office complaining that the shop stewards do not conduct the time lists properly, while in others complaints are made against the employers for failing to divide the work equally among the cutters. In all these cases it requires vigilant attention by the office to iron out differences among the cutters, as well as to adjust the complaints against the employers directly. These grievances, however, are generally adjusted to the satisfaction of the cutters involved.

## A. Beller, Typical "Equal Division of Work" Case

The firm of A. Beller, until 1929, has for many years always employed a force of about twenty cutters, most of whom had made a fair living and had a long run of work during the year. For the past two years, however, the firm was re-organized, and is operating on a considerably smaller scale. At present, there are ten cutters working, including the head cutter, and they are getting very little work during the year.

Until recently this firm employed three steady men who never divided work. Among the three were Ben Unger, the head-trimming cutter, and Sam Spiro, the sample cutter. During the years of prosperity the cutters did not seem to be affected much by the few privileged brothers, whom the firm designated as the most skillful of the lot, to be compensated with permanent jobs. A few months ago, however, the cutters of A. Beller finally decided to file a complaint demanding equal division of work, as they had had very little employment during the year, and permanent positions to the few cutters mentioned above meant depriving the other cutters of quite a few weeks of work during the slack period.

When the office took this matter up with the firm, it assumed an arrogant attitude stating that these men had been in their employ for the past twenty-five years, always classified as special cut-

ters, doing a special grade of work and that the rest of the men can not be placed on a par with them. The firm, therefore, contended they were to be exempt from dividing work. The office, however, insisted that all the cutters working in the shop are qualified to do everything that pertains to the cutting craft, and that no one can be placed in any preferred category, and that unless the firm was ready to carry out the provisions of the agreement, the matter would be referred to the Impartial Chairman for adjustment. The firm subsequently laid off Cutter Spiro and made room for another man to go in. Cutter Unger, however, refused to divide the work, claiming that he was the head trimming cutter and in the season was entrusted with matching shades of material on complicated garments, and was entitled to work permanently.

Brother Unger was summoned to the Executive Board where he was instructed to divide the work, on the penalty of being expelled from Local 10. Brother Unger carried out the decision of the Executive Board, and on Friday night informed the firm of the Union's decision. The Beller firm subsequently filed a complaint to the Association that the Union was depriving it of employing Brother Unger, whose services are very important to their shop. The Union, however, retorted that there was no objection to Brother Unger's working in the shop provided he is employed in accordance with the provisions of the agreement, namely on samples only, and the firm was given to understand that as in the case of Brother Spiro, Brother Unger also will have to divide the work.

## Dress Shops Declared on Strike to Enforce Union Conditions

The problem of enforcing union conditions, especially equal division of work, is more difficult in the dress shops, as most of the dress manufacturers were unionized during the last strike and are not as keen concerning their obligations to the Union as are the cloak employers who have been in contractual relations with the Union for a much longer period. For this reason the office very often encounters hardships to enforce the provisions of the agreement in the dress shops, and recently a number of shops were called out on strike to enforce Union conditions, especially equal division of work. Among these shops are the firms of Harry Herzog, L. Sherman, Geo. Miller & Dufine, Marcy Dress, S. Phillips

& Son, Schwartz & Finkelstein, Posner & Fox.

In the case of Marcy Dress, cutter George Cohen was discharged by the firm on the claim that he was incompetent, having made several errors. The office, upon investigating this case, refused to justify the discharge on the ground that the errors did not warrant the action of the firm. This matter was subsequently referred to Dr. N. I. Stone, the Impartial Chairman of the Dress Industry. At the hearing, the firm testified that Brother Cohen had made many costly errors, which resulted in losses to the firm as most of the dresses cut by him were returned as misfits. The Impartial Chairman demanded proof of this assertion, and when the firm was unable to produce evidence to that effect, Dr. N. I. Stone ordered the reinstatement of the cutter. And as the firm failed to carry out the decision of the Chairman, the Union was obliged to declare a strike, and to this date the strike is still in progress.

The cutters of L. Sherman, as well as the cutters of Geo. Miller & Dufine, were stopped off for failure on the part of the firm to divide the work equally amongst the cutters. In both cases the cutters will not be sent back to work unless equal division of work is assumed.

## Employers Attempting to Force Wage Reductions

Now that the regular spring season is over, quite a number of employers are conducting what is known as promotion sales. In most of these cases reduction of wages is exacted from the workers, and attempts have been made by employers to reduce cutters wages also. The office, however, has made it very clear that under no circumstances will Local 10 stand for reduction of wages. Among the manufacturers who demanded reductions from the cutters were: Maurice Bandler, Adolph Brief, Margolin & Stein, Posner & Fox, and many others.

In all these cases, with the exception of Margolin & Stein and Posner & Fox, the employers were convinced that these reductions can not apply to cutters and the office succeeded in preventing cuts of wages. In the case of Margolin & Stein, however, the firm reduced the wages of the cutters. A complaint was filed and back pay will have to be remitted.

In the case of Posner & Fox the firm insisted that, unless the cutters, three in number, would agree to a 20 per cent reduction in wages, it would not manufacture inside. When the men refused to consent to a reduction they were ordered not to call to work on Monday. A complaint of a lockout was immediately filed

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# The Month in Local 10

(Continued from Page 15)

by the Union with the Impartial Chairman and the latter ordered the firm to put the cutters back to work. This the firm refused to do, and a strike was declared against the shop.

## Warning Against Saturday Work Permissions

As known, the cloak shops are entitled to work 8 Saturdays immediately preceding Easter Sunday, and the dress shops may work 4 Saturdays. In both trades these Saturdays have already terminated, and the office is now conducting an intensive control to apprehend violators. All the cutters who violated the five-day week were summoned before the Executive Board, and in most cases presented alibis that they were granted permission by the shop chairmen. The Executive Board, however, does not accept this as an excuse because the shop chairmen have no right to grant permission to cutters except with the sanction of Local 10, and heavy fines are imposed upon the men.

## Miss Bobs Forced to Remit \$300 As Back Pay

Among the various shops the office is investigating now is the firm of Miss Bobs. A committee visited this shop on Saturday, April 18, to ascertain whether the cutters were working, but the firm refused to admit the committee claiming they were members of the Industrial Council and, therefore, could not be entered without the clerk of the Association. The members of the committee, however, overheard the sound of cutting machines in operation. The cutters were subsequently summoned before the Executive Board, where it was disclosed that, in addition to working on this particular Saturday, they were also not being paid properly for overtime. When they were called in in a group,

however, all the cutters denied having worked Saturdays and insisted they were receiving double pay for overtime. In view of their defiant attitude the cutters were ordered to stay out of the shop until they told the truth. The Industrial Council thereupon filed a complaint to Impartial Chairman Ingersoll that the Union had caused a stoppage of the cutters and demanded their return to work. The office, however, insisted that in view of the circumstances, the cutters would not be permitted to go back to work unless the firm had remitted the back pay due for overtime. After the cutters were out one day, the firm admitted not having paid the regular rate for overtime and turned over \$300 in back pay. The cutters were then again summoned before the Executive Board, and a decision in their case will shortly be rendered.

## Local 10 Pushing Organization Work in the Dress Market

In the past few weeks, the office has investigated quite a number of non-union cutting departments. Some of these firms are located in buildings that are guarded by the police and other hirelings of the employers, to stave off any attempts on the part of the Union to unionize their plants. The office, however, is constantly on the watch, and as soon as an opportunity presents itself these cutters are stopped. As a result the following two shops were organized: Navarra Dress, 135 West 36th Street and Roberts Dress, 224 West 35th Street, both shops employing 5 cutters each.

The task of organizing these cutting departments can by no means be regarded as an easy one, for, as mentioned

above, all employers operating these cutting departments would rather spend enormous amounts of money for "protection" against the Union, than sign up Union contracts. Under such circumstances one can readily see the handicap the Union is confronted with. The office, nevertheless, will continue in its activities in the effort to organize these non-union shops.

## Dress Joint Board Launches Saturday Drive

Owing to the fact that quite a number of dress shops have started on summer work, the Dress Joint Board has decided to institute a Saturday Drive. A committee of 500 dressmakers is expected to patrol the dress market to check Saturday work. The cutters are, therefore, requested to appear, from now on, at the Dress Joint Board, on Saturdays, at 7:30 A. M., where they will be assigned to this work.

## Three Large Shops Signed Up in Underwear Trade

As a result of the activities conducted in the Underwear market by the Miscellaneous Branch of Local 10, three underwear firms employing about 400 workers and involving about twenty cutters signed up under union terms—Patricia Underwear; Halland and Hassel, and Dube Underwear. The underwear cutters have been largely responsible for this achievement, as without their untiring efforts on the picket line, as shown every morning during the strikes, this would have been impossible.

At the last meeting of the Miscellaneous Branch, which had a great attendance of underwear cutters, Brother Samuel Shore, in a very warm address, expressed his gratitude to Local 10 and to all Miscellaneous cutters who were so helpful in bringing about a successful conclusion in recent underwear strikes.

### ATTENTION A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MISCELLANEOUS BRANCH

Will Take Place  
MONDAY, JUNE 1st, 1931,  
at the  
INTERNATIONAL AUDITORIUM  
3 West 16th Street  
at 7:30 P. M. Sharp

All Children's Dress and Underwear Cutters are to attend this meeting.

Books will be stamped signifying attendance and a fine of \$1.00, for non-attendance will be strictly enforced.

### Attention CUTTERS OF LOCAL TEN

A Good and Welfare Meeting

Will Be Held

MONDAY, JUNE 15th, 1931,

at

ARLINGTON HALL  
23 St. Mark's Place  
at 7:30 P. M. Sharp

In view of the fact that this is the first Good and Welfare Meeting to be held this year, it behooves each and every member to attend without fail.

Books will be stamped signifying attendance and the \$1.00 fine for non-attendance will be strictly enforced.

### Attention CUTTERS OF LOCAL TEN

The meetings for the following month will take place in the order as herein arranged.

1. Regular Membership Meeting,  
MONDAY, MAY 25th, 1931
2. Regular Membership Meeting,  
MONDAY, JUNE 8th, 1931
3. Regular Membership Meeting,  
MONDAY, JUNE 29th, 1931

All the above meetings are to be held in ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place, at 7:30 P. M.

Cutters are urged to attend these meetings without fail.

Books will be stamped signifying attendance and the \$1.00 fine for Non-attendance will be strictly enforced.